



Frequently Asked Questions

Medical Research Future Fund 2021 Frontier Health and Medical Research Grant opportunity

This grant opportunity funds the development of bold and innovative Australian healthcare projects of great potential and global impact in any area of activity within the health system.

1. Why was the 2019 Frontier Health and Medical Research Program Stage One deferred?

In recognition of the COVID-19 emergency and the associated disruptions to Government, businesses and researchers across a range of industries, a decision was made to defer the Frontier Health and Medical Research Program Grant opportunity.

The Grant opportunity will re-open on 7 October 2020.

2. What are the changes to the Frontier Health and Medical Research grant?

The 2021 Frontier Health and Medical Research grant opportunity has replaced the Frontier Health and Medical Research grants: Stage One and Stage Two.

- The Grant opportunity now incorporates the entire Frontiers process and comprises three phases: Application, Research Planning, and Research Implementation. There will no longer be separate Stage 1 and Stage 2 grant opportunities.
- The Project activity period has increased from 12 months to 15 months from date of grant agreement execution, and includes:
 - 12 months to develop and submit your Research Plan; and

- an additional 3 months for research teams to participate in the assessment process of Research Plans.

- Applications must identify Chief Investigators who are not named as part of any other application under the round.
- The itemised project budget is to include an appropriate amount of funding to undertake an independent audit.
- There are minor changes to the guidelines, including the assessment criteria to include information about the impact of COVID-19. For applicants that have a submitted, or have a draft application, please refer to Table 1: Key Changes on page 3 for details.
- Calculating labour expenditure has changed. The flat 30% levy has been removed and applicants will have to *calculate* the additional salary on-costs. The costs must be reasonable and separately identified in your project budget.

You should read the 2021 Frontier Health and Medical Research Program [grant opportunity guidelines](#) before applying.

3. I submitted an application for Stage One Round Two. Do I need to do anything to my submitted application?

Yes. All applicants who started a draft or submitted an application will be required to resubmit their existing application. However, it has been saved in the system to make this as easy as possible.

Your application has been set to the status of draft. You will be able to log on, access your existing application in the portal and then revise and add to your application as appropriate. At a minimum, you will need to update your application milestone dates and project start and end date.

Please refer to Section 5 *What I need to do to submit an existing application*.

You must resubmit your application before the grant opportunity closes on 11 December 2020 at 17:00 AEDT.

4. I started an application for Stage One Round Two. Can I access my application?

Yes. Your existing application will be in the status of draft under my application and you may continue with this application. Alternatively, you may also leave it as it is as draft, and commence and submit a new application.

Important information when submitting an existing application

5. What do I need to do to submit an existing application?

There are some important steps you need to follow in a particular order when editing and submitting an existing application.

- Step 1: Select page 7 Project Budget using the navigation menu on the left hand side of the portal page.
In the Project expenditure table, zero out all expenditure items related to the 2019-20 financial year and click **save** (not save and continue).
- Step 2: Select page 6 Project Information from the navigation menu on the left hand side of the portal page.
On this page you must update the Project duration information, for:

- Estimated start date. This cannot be earlier than execution of grant agreement. Just remember that you need to have allocated expenditure in the same financial year that your start date falls in.
- Estimated end date. Your project cannot be longer than 12 months to develop and submit your research plan, excluding the 3 months for assessment activities.
- Click **save**.

- Step 3: Next on page 6 Project Information you must update the Project milestones for the project duration timeframes. Then click **save and continue**.
- Step 4: Go back to page 7 Project Budget and provide a summary of your eligible project costs over the life of the project within the new project duration timeframes.*

Click **save and continue**.

Note: If Step 1 is not followed the total funding will incorrectly reflect the funding from the 2019-20 financial year and validations will limit your requested grant funding.

**For recommenced applications, there is no 2022-23 funding field in the application form. Applicants are advised to add funding for that year into the 2021-22 funding field for the appropriate eligible expenditure. The detailed budget attachment can include 2022-23 costs (usually associated with assessment costs).*

- Check all your answer before you submit your application.

Please refer to the [Sample application form](#) for further information.

If you are experiencing validation errors following this step by step process, please contact us for assistance at FrontierResearch@industry.gov.au

6. Research team details

You will be required to upload a document that lists the key members of your research team, including name, title and organisation.

7. Need more information?

For more information, visit business.gov.au or call 13 28 46.

Table 1: Key Changes between the 2019 (Stage One) and 2021 Frontier Health and Medical Research Grant Opportunity Guidelines

<i>Medical Research Future Fund – Frontier Health and Medical Research Initiative 2019 Frontier Health and Medical Research (Stage One) Grant Opportunity Guidelines</i>	<i>Medical Research Future Fund – Frontier Health and Medical Research Initiative 2021 Frontier Health and Medical Research Grant Opportunity Guidelines</i>
N/A	<p>1.3.1 Relationship to the deferred 2019 Frontier Health and Medical Research (Stage One) Grant Opportunity</p> <p>The MRFF acknowledges the potential impacts of COVID-19 on the health and medical research sector, including the ability of researchers to submit applications and undertake research. You will be asked to consider these impacts in your risk management plan. This information will be taken into account in the assessment of your application (refer sections 5 and 6).</p>
N/A	<p>5.1. Assessment criteria for applications</p> <p>The disruptive impacts of COVID-19 on the ability of researchers to submit applications to this grant opportunity and undertake research will be considered as part of the assessment process.</p>

<p>5.2. Assessment Criterion 2: Project methodology (33% weighting)</p> <p>Criterion 2.c: a sufficiently focused research goal, with a stage gated pathway to success or failure within the Frontier initiative's timelines i.e. that the project will be entering the commercialisation stage and will not be dependent on further Commonwealth funding by the end of Stage Two.</p>	<p>5.1.2 Criterion 2: Project methodology (33% weighting)</p> <p>Criterion 2.c: a sufficiently focused research goal, with a stage gated pathway to success within the Frontier initiative's timelines built around the concept that a successful project will be entering the translation/ commercialisation stage and will not be dependent on further Commonwealth funding once the research plan has been implemented.</p>
<p>5.3. Assessment Criterion 3: Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (33% weighting)</p> <p>You should demonstrate this by providing details of:</p> <p>b. your access to personnel/a multidisciplinary team with the right skills and experience. Clearly articulate <u>how</u> their skills and experience are important to the success of your project.</p>	<p>5.1.3 Criterion 3: Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (33% weighting)</p> <p>This criterion focuses on your ability to deliver the project. You should demonstrate this by providing details of:</p> <p>b. your access to personnel/a multi-disciplinary team with appropriate skills and experience (clearly articulate <u>why</u> the team's skills and experiences are important to the success of your project).</p>
	<p>5.1.4 Criterion 4: Overall value and risk of the project (non-weighted)</p> <p>This should include consideration of risks related to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>

<p>6.1. Attachments to the application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed and itemised project budget, including but not limited to disaggregation by project component and financial year, and your related fee card. • a detailed risk management plan, and any supporting documentation, describing how you propose to monitor, manage, and report identified risks, including risks that may arise during your project. 	<p>6.1.1 Attachments to the application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed and itemised project budget to develop a research plan, and participate in the research plan assessment process, including (but not limited to) disaggregation by project component and financial year, and your related fee card. Your budget should include an appropriate amount of funding to undertake an independent audit. • a detailed risk management plan, and any supporting documentation, describing how you propose to monitor, manage, and report identified risks, including risks that may arise during your project, including those related to COVID-19. • a statement (maximum one page) describing how and to what extent COVID-19 has impacted the productivity of your proposed team's track record (where applicable).**
<p>Appendix A. Eligible Expenditure</p> <p>Labour on-costs and administrative overhead</p> <p>You may increase eligible salary costs by an additional 30% allowance to cover on-costs such as employer paid superannuation, payroll tax, workers compensation insurance, and overheads such as office rent and the provision of computers. These costs must be reasonable and be separately identified in the project budget.</p>	<p>Appendix A: Eligible Expenditure</p> <p>Labour on-costs</p> <p>You may include eligible salary on-costs such as employer paid superannuation, payroll tax, workers compensation insurance, and leave entitlements (including paid maternity leave, sick leave, long service leave and recreation leave). These costs must be reasonable and must be separately identified in the project budget.</p>

**Please note that for recommenced application forms, the feasibility analysis is no longer requested at the application phase as a required attachment.

Therefore we suggest applicants to delete the feasibility analysis and upload in its place your COVID-19 statement. An alternative is to email the COVID-19 statement to FrontierResearch@industry.gov.au with your application number and contact details before the closing date of 5.00pm AEDT, December 11 2020.